



THE ABBOTT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE'S 10 TIPS FOR THE EMPOWERED PARENT: How to Ensure Your Child's Educational Needs are Met



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“Empowering parents,
students & educators”



***PARENTS: You are the most important partner in
your child's education.***

You are the expert in your child, and you have the greatest hopes and dreams for them. No one knows them better than you. For this reason, educators cannot do their job in school successfully without your support and engagement. At the Abbott Leadership Institute we empower parents so that they can play that role – to make sure their child's educational needs are met every year and in every classroom. Here are ***ten tips/ideas*** on how you can stay ahead of the game, which will give your child the best chance to learn, grow, and achieve their goals.

10 Tips for Successful Parent Engagement

- 1. Speak positivity and set high expectations for your children. Speak good words over your children.** Let them know that you ***believe in them*** and that you have ***high expectations*** for their life. Recognize their talents and encourage them in those areas. ***Your voice builds their self-esteem.***
- 2. Make education important at home.** If you value education at home, your child will value education at school. ***Make learning a priority and a part of everyday life.*** Turn trips to the grocery store or to the mall into a learning activity. Set aside time for your child to complete their school work and always ask to see it.
- 3. Work on your child's vocabulary and literacy skills.** Understanding words and being able to think critically will help your child learn. ***Read with your child every day for 20 minutes.*** Ask them age appropriate questions afterwards. When you come across a new word, post it in your home and with the definition. ***This will build their literacy skills and create an interest in reading early on.***
- 4. Pay Attention to Your Child's Health.** If your child isn't healthy they can't focus in school. Stay up to date with doctor's visits, try and reduce the spread of germs, and make sure your child's dental, physical and mental health is the best that it can be. Healthy kids THRIVE.
- 5. Build a relationship with your child's principal, teachers and support team early.** Make your presence as a partner in your child's education known from day one. ***Meet with their teachers and***

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the school principal within the first month. Introduce them to your child and to your family (you can even send a note that gives important information about your child's likes and dislikes and their learning style). Provide contact information. And when you meet with the Principal ask about all of the programs and opportunities available in the school. Lastly, request a monthly update. ***You are the parent and you need to know how your child is progressing.***

6. Stay knowledgeable about your child's educational plan and how they spend their school day. Every minute of every day counts. Request a schedule and familiarize yourself with your child's school day. If your child is Special Needs and has an IEP (Individualized Education Plan) read it and make note of all of the supports your child is supposed to receive. Make sure those supports are there.

7. Use Your Resources. If your child needs extra help, seek it out. Your child's teacher is responsible for all of the children in the class. You are responsible for one. If your child is having trouble socially, emotionally or academically, there are many resources available in the city of Newark that are free and can help. ***Call the Abbott Leadership Institute for information on different services and programs (973) 353-3560.***

8. Volunteer at the School, join the Parent Organization. Parents, it is time for us to start investing major time in our child's school. Find ways to lend your support. This will help you get to know your child's educators, principal and staff on a more personal level. If you join the parent organization you can work with other parents to bring needed resources and new ideas for programs and support to the school. ***Parent Power is a game changer.***

9. Become an advocate for quality education. Your child's education is important to their future and there are no "do overs". ***If there is anything that you believe is getting in the way of your child's success, speak up.*** Look for solutions and common ground. And if the problem needs to be addressed at the district or city level, don't be afraid to write a letter that will bring awareness to the needs of your child's school or classroom. ***As a parent, you have a right to raise concerns, so long as you are willing to partner in addressing them.***

10. Attend an ALI Saturday Class. There you will be able to learn about education advocacy, policy and strategies for parent leadership. You will also get to know other parents who have similar interests as you.



The Mission of the Abbott Leadership Institute is to develop informed and effective education advocates for Newark Public Schools (NPS).

Over the last 14 years, we have educated 4,500 people through our free Saturday classes at Rutgers Newark, mostly Newark residents.

All children deserve an excellent education, and it's our job to prepare parents, teachers and students to advocate for school reform that will meet their needs.

For the current class schedule, visit

www.abbottleadership.org.

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